

[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai.]

The increase in the current year's receipt under Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments is special to the year for reasons already explained.

EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO REVENUE.

11. The expenditure proposed to be made from the revenue of Rs 263.79 lakhs budgeted for the next year has been fixed at Rs 261.09 lakhs. This exceeds the revised estimates for the current year by Rs 4.01 lakhs. The programme of expenditure for the various departments has been subjected to careful scrutiny both by the Government and the Standing Finance Committee of the Legislature and the allotments fixed with due regard to the needs of progressive administration on the one hand and the necessity for rigid economy on the other. I shall now pass on to a brief survey of the more important features of the next year's programme of expenditure.

12. *Land Revenue.* Over and above the provision for the normal activities of the Department, the necessary allotment has been made in the Land Revenue budget for the continuance of certain important special items of work such as the Jemmikaram Settlement Operations, which are nearing completion, the survey of Minor Circuits and the demarcation and survey of encroachments within the Cardamom Hills Reserve. But the one outstanding feature of the Land Revenue budget for the next year, a feature of particular interest to the ryot, is a lump sum provision of Rs 20,000 for working out a scheme for bringing up-to-date the records relating to land, which had of late been falling into arrears owing to a substantial reduction of the Land Records Maintenance staff in 1107 as a measure of retrenchment.

13. *Income Tax.* The Income Tax Department, which had at first been only an adjunct of the Land Revenue Department, but which was separated therefrom and organised as a self-contained unit at the commencement of this year, on a temporary basis under a Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax, is proposed to be made permanent from next year, in view of the appreciable improvements in assessment and collections resulting from the separation. The Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner will, however, continue to exercise superior control over the department as the Chief Revenue authority.

14. *Excise.* It has not yet been possible to arrive at a correct estimate of the work of the special temporary executive staff appointed in 1113 and continued during the current year, for the prevention of smuggling and the conservation of Excise revenue especially in the frontiers; for, though this staff has been in existence for over a year and a half, the effects of their work on the Excise revenue of the State had been considerably vitiated by the concurrent effects of the general political unrest, from which we are just emerging, and it may take some time more for the staff to show their real usefulness. Government, however, feel that the Excise revenues of the State during

the current year have not come up to the expectations which the department held out at the time of the entertainment of the temporary staff. But as it may not be advisable to disband the entire staff immediately, before waiting sometime more to assess their real usefulness in the improvement of Excise revenue, the temporary staff is proposed to be continued next year also, subject to a reduction to the extent of Rs. 25,000 in the departmental budget. The Excise Commissioner has already been asked to submit definite proposals for reducing the staff to the absolute minimum requirements. The Statistical branch of the department will continue to function next year also with a view to the correct recording and compilation of trade and customs statistics which is of paramount importance to the State and to the commercial public.

15. *Forest.* The House is aware that the Government had secured the services of a specially trained and qualified officer of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, to advise them on matters relating to exploitation of the resources of their forests. He has already demonstrated in a very practical way the possibilities of making good use of the soft woods of our forests by subjecting them to Ascu treatment. He is now investigating the possibility of making prefabricated bridge and roof trusses using treated timber in lieu of iron and steel. A provision of Rs '68 of a lakh has been made in the forest budget to enable him to carry on his investigations; and it is hoped that ere long the treated soft woods of our forests will find a ready market even outside the State.

16. *General Administration.* An authorised publication, in a form readily available for easy reference, of the various Acts and Proclamations of the State and the amendments issued thereto from time to time has been a long-felt need, especially to Lawyers and Judges. To remove this want, it is proposed to make arrangements for an official compilation of the Laws of the State on the analogy of the Unrepealed Central Acts of the Government of India. A sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided for the purpose. The temporary staff in the Central Records specially appointed for sorting and listing the old records of the State, many of which are of historical and archaeological interest, will continue to work next year also.

The Stores Purchase Committee will continue to function next year also as a central agency for arranging for the purchase and supply of the stores required for the various departments of the State service. By this centralisation Government hope that it would be possible to obtain the best materials at the cheapest prices. It will also leave the departmental officers free to devote their full time to the departmental work unsaddled by the direct responsibilities for purchase of large stores.

The experience of the past two years has been very encouraging. The aggregate approximate value of the contracts settled by the Stores Purchase Committee has risen from Rs. 11.16 lakhs in 1113 to

[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai.]

Rs. 15.06 lakhs up-to-date. As many as 300 firms have registered their names with the Committee. The large increase in the number of competitive quotations has ended to greater economy. The Committee are also attempting, whenever possible, to effect economy by substitution of suitable cheaper materials for costly makes of articles by directing local manufacture of many articles in the P. W. D. Work-shops, in the Central Prison Manufactory, etc., at a much cheaper rate. Another important economy exercised by the Committee is in limiting to a minimum the purchase of stores from Indian Stocks and ordering them as far as possible from abroad on a duty-free basis, thus saving the duty payable on the articles ranging from 20 to 50 per cent of the actual value.

17. *Administration of Justice.* The continuance of the existing temporary Second Judges' Courts and the Temporary Munsiffs' Courts during the whole of the next year, except the one at Pathanamthitta, has been provided for in the Budget. But provision for the continuance of the Conciliation Boards has been made only for 8 months.

A committee has been appointed to go into the whole question of indebtedness with special reference to agricultural and industrial debts and the proper mode of dealing with the same and to report to Government their conclusions *inter alia* regarding the extent to which compulsion may be resorted to in scaling down and settling the existing debts and the legal procedure to achieve the end. When the suggestions of the Committee are embodied in a suitable Legislative Enactment, as they will be very soon, the constitution of the Conciliation Board may undergo a thorough change.

18. *Central Prison.* To enable convict labour to be used to the best advantage of the Government as well as the convicts themselves, funds have been included in the next year's budget for the purchase of power looms, and warping and weaving machines for the Central Prison. Provision has also been made for the continuance of the Leather Industry. The Jail Manufactory has already offered to supply the leather goods required for the use of the State Police and Military and it is hoped that in the near future the industry will not only be able to stand on its own legs, but will also be a profitable concern.

19. *Police.* While reviewing the Revised Estimates for the current year, I have drawn the attention of the House to the heavy expenditure which the Government, in the discharge of their fundamental duties, had to incur for the preservation of peace and order and the protection of the person and property of the law-abiding citizens of the land. Though the sombre clouds that darkened the atmosphere have vanished to a considerable extent, the horizon is not yet perfectly clear and Government consider that it would be only a cautious measure of prevention that there should be specific provision in the budget for the continuance of the special police and of the Armed Reserve for a few more months next year to deal with any emergent situation, should it

arise. Government will, however, only, be too glad to avoid this expenditure if Political Organisations responsible for subversive movements will enable them to utilize the tax payer's money in more fruitful directions.

20. *Education.* The Education budget for the next year has provided for the appointment of a full time officer for organising vocational and welfare work in schools. A comprehensive scheme of craft education and physical culture combined with interest in the pupils' own environments will be devised and worked out. The officer will start the experiment in two or three schools in the first instance. Ample provision has also been made for the opening of new classes and the appointment of additional teachers therefor, as also for stipends and scholarships. The Education Programme for the next year covers an expenditure of Rs. 53.03 lakhs which includes the lump sum grant of Rs. 8.4 lakhs to the Travancore University. I am sure the House will be happy to learn in this connection that the Travancore University has begun work in full swing and that the Engineering College, the only one of its kinds in South India, excepting the one at Madras, has already entered upon the Degree and Diploma Courses from the beginning of the current academic year.

21. *Agriculture.* In addition to the allotment for the continuance of the existing agricultural schools and experimental farms and stations and for the usual activities of the Department, provision has been made in the budget for the opening of a training class for stockmen in the Veterinary Department. Special attention will be devoted to the management of livestock, which the House need hardly be told, is a matter of vital importance in a pre-eminently agrarian State like ours. A reorientation of the policy of this department as well as that of the Co-operative Department is under consideration with a view to co-ordinate their activities with those of the former and those educated persons who are willing to undertake the work of agricultural operations and marketing on up-to-date scientific lines.

22. *Industries.* In pursuance of the declared policy of Government that the industrial development of the country except the control and organisations of the primal necessities of the people, such as Water supply, Drainage, Light, Electricity and Transport, should as far as possible, be left to private agencies, of course, duly supported and financed, when necessary from the State Exchequer, the Rubber Factory, which was constructed and equipped at Government cost, was leased out on easy terms to a limited company of local incorporation, in the hope that the Factory would run on a commercial and competitive basis thereby providing a suitable means for indigent capitalists to get themselves trained in industrial enterprises. The results were, however, not quite encouraging. The Factory has had to be closed, not because of the inferiority and unsuitability of the manufactures which were admittedly of high quality, but because of imperfect marketing arrangements and want of rationalisation. The Government are now having in contemplation the resuscitation of the Factory under the immediate control and supervision of the Department of Industries,

[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai.]

But before actually launching on such an undertaking, they would be glad to know the sense of the House in the matter; and with a view to bring the subject within the scope of the deliberations of the House, a token grant of Rs. 10,000 is included in the Budget. There is also provision in the Industries Budget for the proper administration of the recently enacted Labour Laws viz., the Factories Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, Trade Unions Act and the Trade Disputes Act.

23. *Co-operative Department and Uplift of Backward Communities.* Besides the allotment for the grant of the usual subsidies to non-Governmental Co-operative Organisations like the Supervising Unions and Co-operative Conferences, an enhanced provision has been made for ameliorative measures to help the backward communities.

24. It has always been the avowed policy of Government to render all possible help to the backward communities in their struggle for advancement in diverse directions, social economic and material. Free registry of lands, educational concessions, grants to Harijan hostels, promotion of cottage industries, construction of dwelling houses in selected areas; these are but a few of the various activities which Government have undertaken in pursuance of their programme of ameliorative measures for the uplift of backward classes. A Harijan Colony has been established in Kurichi with accommodation for 40 families. Harijan hostels are liberally subsidised by Government. About 40 Harijans are being fed and accommodated in the Sri Chitra Hostel, 25 Harijan girls in the Mahilamandiram are being supported by Government at a cost of Rs 4 per pupil. About Rs 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 are being spent for the free supply of text books to Harijan pupils in the 3rd and 4th classes in primary schools. The total expenditure, direct and indirect, on these communities is estimated at Rs. 2 lakhs.

25. *Medical and Public Health.* The House will, I believe, be interested to note that in order to obviate the difficulties and inconveniences arising from the lack of trained male nurses in the Hospitals of the State, the opening of a special class for the training of male nurses has been arranged for. Provision has also been made for the usual improvements to and additional staff for the medical institutions of the State. In particular, I would like to inform the House, that the premier medical institution of the State, the General Hospital at Trivandrum, has been well equipped for Radium treatment of cancer under an officer specially trained in the work, an arrangement which exists only in very few hospitals in South India.

The frequent occurrence of Malaria in an almost epidemic form in some parts of the country has, of late, been a menace to public health and consequently a source of great anxiety to the Government. One of the District Health Officers of the State, was therefore deputed for practical training in Malariology in the various malarial centres of the Empire including Ceylon. He has returned and will formulate

definite proposals for organising measures for controlling and combating the disease. A small provision has been made for this purpose, as a first instalment.

26. *Public Works.* The allotment for ordinary Public Works expenditure for the next year is Rs 33.27 lakhs as against Rs 32.57 lakhs for the current year. This grant is exclusive of the works provided for in the Capital Section of the budget and those proposed to be met out of the Road Development Fund.

In view of the frequent droughts and the inadequacy of the Kodayar Reservoir Supply, the irrigation needs of the State especially those of South Travancore are engaging the attention of Government. A provision of Rs. 25 of a lakh has been made in the next year's budget for immediate improvements to the irrigation tanks and their restoration. Provision has also been included for the investigation of an irrigation scheme to augment the supply from the Kodayar Reservoir. A sum of Rs 17,500 has been provided for the supply of drinking water from wells in places where it is absolutely necessary especially in South Travancore and Shencotta. As an annual expenditure of Rs 1,000 is being now incurred for the supply of water to the Muttam Village, a permanent scheme costing Rs 32,000 is proposed to be taken up and a provision of Rs 25,000 has been made for the purpose in the Capital Section of the budget.

The Main 'Southern Road. It is proposed to provide dustless surfacing for this road from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin with cement concrete for the portion from Trivandrum to Thamaraculam Junction and tarmac from thence to Cape Comorin. The whole work including stone metal berms 4 inches on either side of the special surfacing is estimated to cost Rs 14.76 lakhs. A lump sum provision of Rs 7 lakhs has been made for the purpose under capital expenditure.

27. *Road Development Fund.* The Government of India have instituted the Road Development Fund with a view to subsidise States and Provinces in their undertaking of works of improvement and development of the means of communication. An Excise duty of 2½ annas per gallon is levied on petrol produced in British India and a similar duty is levied as countervailing duty on all petrol imported into British India from foreign countries including Burma. Out of the net receipts on this account a sum not exceeding 15 per cent. is kept by the Government of India as Special Reserve and out of this Reserve Fund, the Government of India have allowed the Travancore Government a special grant amounting to half the estimated cost of construction of the Alwaye Bridge. The balance is distributed on the basis of consumption of petrol and our share on this account during 1937-38 amounted to Rs 2,30,345. Our share of the petrol duty so far as it related to imports at the port of Cochin having been included in the share of the customs receipts paid to us under the Cochin Harbour Agreement, a sum of Rs 1,53,087 has been deducted and the balance of Rs 77,258 was paid to this Government.

The contributions received are not appropriated for ordinary revenue expenditure, but credited to a separate fund and utilised on the improvements of our main trunk roads.

[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai.]

28. *Rural Uplift.* The House will observe a new feature in this Budget, consisting in the setting apart of Rs 50,000 for being utilised for rural welfare work. Seven Village Panchayats, constituted under Act VII of 1100, have been in existence for some years; but the results have fallen short of expectations. It is therefore proposed to introduce a scheme to rehabilitate the Village Panchayats. The ideal is to have Village Panchayats in every pakuthy in every taluk. Government, however, propose next year to select one pakuthi in each taluk for the inauguration of rural welfare work. The most suitable villages will be selected for the purpose. All the nation-building departments will as far as possible be represented in the Panchayat and the Tahsildar of the taluk will be the Chairman. It is expected that the changes now proposed will have the desired effect and that the Panchayats will be enabled to undertake as many duties as possible according to the needs and conditions of the several villages. The idea underlying the scheme is that subsidy will be granted to those localities which are willing to supply labour or money towards schemes of immediate practical urgency and value to the rural parts—e. g. village roads, rural wells, local sanitation and conservancy and so on.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

29. Our expenditure on capital schemes next year is estimated at Rs. 54.25 lakhs. The provision relates mostly to schemes started in proceeding years and now in progress.

They are—

A. Non-productive works.

	Rs.
Water Supply schemes ...	6 lakhs
Drainage Schemes ...	6 „
Town Planning Schemes ...	2 „
Military Works ...	2 „
Miscellaneous ...	8.5 „
Total ...	24.5 lakhs

B.—Productive Schemes included under Debt Heads.

Pallivasal Hydro Electric Project ...	20.00 lakhs
Ceramic Factory ...	.50 „
Commercial Transport ...	1.75 „
Telephone Schemes ...	3.00 „
Other Electrical Schemes ...	2.50 „
Total ...	27.75 lakhs

Loan to the Cochin Harbour
authorities towards the fourth
stage works

... 2.00 „

Grand total ... 54.25 lakhs.